

property rights provisions in the Agreement at the behest of the Congress. By providing for the effective enforcement of labor and environmental laws, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance, the Agreement will contribute to improved worker rights and higher levels of environmental protection in Colombia. The result is an Agreement that all of us can be proud of and that will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening the Colombian market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on over 80 percent of U.S. industrial and consumer goods exported to Colombia will be eliminated immediately, with tariffs on the remaining goods eliminated within 10 years. The Agreement will allow 52 percent of U.S. agricultural exports, by value, to enter Colombia duty-free immediately, with the remaining agricultural tariffs phased out over time. This will help to level the playing field, as 91 percent of U.S. imports from Colombia already enjoy duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs.

My Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress on a bipartisan path forward to secure approval of this legislation that builds on the positive spirit of the May 10, 2007, agreement on trade between the Administration and the House and Senate leadership, and the strong bipartisan support demonstrated by both Houses of Congress in overwhelmingly approving the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement last year. The United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement represents an historic step forward in U.S. relations with a key friend and ally in Latin America. Congressional approval of legislation to implement the Agreement is in our national interest, and I urge the Congress to act favorably on this legislation as quickly as possible.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 7, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 265) honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 265

Whereas more than 2,750,000 Americans are demonstrating their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas 50 percent of the members of the Armed Forces, when deployed away from their permanent duty stations, have left families with children behind;

Whereas no one feels the effect of those deployments more than the children of deployed service members;

Whereas as of March 15, 2008, approximately 3,400 of these children have lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces during the preceding 5 years;

Whereas the daily struggles and personal sacrifices of children of members of the Armed Forces too often go unnoticed;

Whereas the children of members of the Armed Forces are a source of pride and honor to all Americans and it is fitting that the Nation recognize their contributions and celebrate their spirit;

Whereas the "National Month of the Military Child", observed in April each year, recognizes military children for their sacrifices and contributes to demonstrating the Nation's unconditional support to members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas in addition to Department of Defense programs to support military families and military children, various programs and campaigns have been established in the private sector to honor, support, and thank military children by fostering awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices and the challenges they face; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage support for those organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support for military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring the children of members of the Armed Forces and recognizes that they too share in the burden of protecting the Nation;

(2) urges Americans to join with the military community in observing the "National Month of the Military Child" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children; and

(3) recognizes with great appreciation the contributions made by private-sector organizations that provide resources and assistance to military families and the communities that support them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I stand before you in support of House Resolution 265, honoring military children for their personal sacrifice and recognizing the month of April as the National Month of the Military Child.

Currently, 2.75 million Americans are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Of that number, 1.7 million who have served or who are currently serving have been deployed, nearly 600,000 members have deployed more than once, and close to 260,000 are currently deployed.

These are important points for us to take note of and reflect upon today because today there are nearly 1.2 million military children in families whose parents proudly serve in the uniform.

Unfortunately, 50 percent of the servicemembers who are currently deployed away from their duty stations are separated from their spouses and their children.

Long-term and multiple deployments have shown undesirable effects on both servicemembers, their families and their children. They sometimes experience severe emotional, psychological and fiscal problems over the course of these deployments. Over extended periods of time, anxiety and strain become a part of the daily lives of both spouses and children who sacrifice unduly.

Approximately 3,400 military children have lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces during the preceding 5 years. Military children are making personal sacrifices in support of this Nation.

During National Month of the Military Child, we need to ensure that we support all the American children who faithfully share their family in order to protect our way of life.

House Resolution 265 encourages public and private sector support for both military children and their families through direct contributions to scholarships, grants and donations, action which promotes family readiness.

So it is appropriate to celebrate the children who are loved by these brave men and women in uniform. The health and the well-being of these children is important to the overall readiness of our forces.

We therefore appreciate the leadership shown by our distinguished colleague from Northern Virginia (Mr. MORAN) in sponsoring this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 265, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 265, as amended, which honors military children during National Month of the Military Child.

Today we are a Nation at war with more than 2.75 million men and women in uniform and more than 280,000 deployed worldwide. The men and women

of today's Armed Forces are all volunteers, but as never before in our history, they are also married and have families. At any given time, when deployed away from their home bases, 50 percent of the members of the Armed Forces leave behind families with children.

While the numbers and statistics are interesting, the real message here is that the sacrifices and commitments made by the members of the armed services are very often directly felt and experienced by their family members and especially their children. Each of the military services and the Department of Defense go to extraordinary lengths to provide the resources and environment to support military families and children. Preservation and support of families is recognized as a military readiness requirement.

I fully support those efforts. The resolution today strives to ensure that proper attention is focused on sacrifices, spirit and contributions made by the children of military families. This resolution also seeks to bring the recognition and thanks to both the Department of Defense and private sector programs that support military children and families.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for sponsoring this important resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) who is the original sponsor of this important measure.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank my friend, the distinguished delegate from Guam, for yielding me the time.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) for his kind comments as well. I am glad to be joined here by the Chair of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Chet Edwards.

Madam Speaker, a child's process of growing up is difficult, but imagine what it must be like when one parent or even both parents are deployed abroad as part of their duty in our Armed Forces.

While friends and relatives pray for their safe return, no one feels the impact of deployment more than the children of servicemembers in combat overseas. We are learning more about the impact that living under this shadow of uncertainty has on our children.

The incidence of military children needing psychological counseling has increased dramatically. Last year Children's Hospital in the District of Columbia had over 1,000 visits from military children suffering from behavioral and mental health problems. These are just normal kids who want what any child wants, their mothers and fathers at home to tuck them in at night reassuring them everything will be all right.

Today more than 2,300,000 Americans demonstrate their courage and com-

mitment every day to our Nation by serving in our Armed Forces. Of these men and women, most have families subjected to frequent moves from one installation to another, long deployments abroad, and the fear that their loved one serving overseas might never come home.

□ 1430

Fifty percent of our troops deployed overseas have children that are left behind. That is more than one million children with at least one parent deployed overseas. Those figures, statistics, can too easily be ignored sometimes because they are abstract. But here is one that can't be dismissed: 3,400 children have already lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces over the past 6 years.

When I introduced this resolution 2 years ago, the number of children who had lost a parent was 1,000 and now it is 3,400. The Department of Defense understands that without the families' support, they will never have the soldiers' full support.

In 1986, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger declared this month the "National Month of the Military Child." Every year since, events at military bases, forts and other installations across the Nation have been held to celebrate the military family, replete with lots of lofty rhetoric but not enough true attention to their needs.

Two bases in my own district, Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer, hold annual events providing military kids the chance to be distracted a bit by just being a kid with other kids in similar situations. But the Congress needs to step up.

Today I am glad to join with my colleagues, particularly with my colleagues who will speak here today, to offer this resolution officially recognizing the month of April as the National Month of the Military Child, and dedicating the Congress to pay more attention to the children and the spouses of our soldiers.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Representative ISSA and WALTER JONES of North Carolina are bipartisan sponsors for this effort. I thank them for their support and leadership.

This resolution is just a small way that Congress can recognize the sacrifice these youngsters and their families are asked to make, but it is an opportunity to commit ourselves to doing much more.

Specifically, the resolution joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring military children, recognizing that they too share the burden and are making a great sacrifice in protecting our Nation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the organization Kids Serve Too. It is in my congressional district, and is dedicated to the needs of military families everywhere. It was created by military families to support other military families. Kids Serve Too

sponsors activities and events for military children. It is represented in the gallery today specifically by Tricia Johnson and her daughters, Cat and Claire, and her sister, Kathleen Murphy.

Madam Speaker, military families and their children deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their sacrifice. Today we honor them and their sacrifice and thank you for bringing this resolution to the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are not permitted to recognize guests in the gallery.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for her time and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I want to salute Mr. MORAN and the cosponsors of this resolution. In my book, military children and spouses are truly the unsung heroes and heroines of our Nation's defense. They may not put on our Nation's uniform, but they serve every single day and they serve with great honor and distinction.

One cannot have a makeup day for a parent not being present for a birthday, special occasion, for a mom or dad not being there for a high school graduation or a college graduation. There are no makeup days for those missed special occasions. And as Mr. MORAN pointed out, in 3,400 cases, military children have made the ultimate sacrifice of losing a mother or father in service to our country. It is so right that we honor these great Americans, the military children, today with this resolution.

As Mr. MORAN also pointed out, I think it is also more important that we honor them not just during the month of April with our words and floor speeches, but every day and every month and every year with our deeds, with effective funding, adequate funding for the Impact Aid Program that provides extra Federal funding to school districts with heavy concentrations of military children, with day-care programs which this Congress last year took the initiative on and added \$130 million worth of day-care centers for military children throughout the country, especially needed during a time of war.

We worked hard on military housing so children can live in houses they are proud to call their homes, and their parents are as well. And this Congress last year took the initiative in increasing by an historic unprecedented level funding for VA medical care so that when those parents leave the military, they will continue to get their military care. I urge support of this resolution.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 265, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 70

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a "special message" to the Senate and the House of Representatives that "earnestly recommended passage" of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring "our Army . . . to the highest point of efficiency";

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, "strongly commending . . . proposed legislation" to "increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army" by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled "An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army", ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deployed or providing mobilized soldiers, and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas nearly one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions are consistently characterized by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 70, which commemorates 2008 as the centennial of the United States Army Reserve, celebrating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to operations at home and abroad. I thank my colleague, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, for introducing this important resolution.